

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 28 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A controller which can communicate with a plurality of image forming apparatuses and transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of ~~an image forming apparatus to the~~ image forming apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit adapted to store ~~means for storing~~ information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of ~~said image forming apparatuses~~ ~~apparatus~~ is being executed; and

a job managing unit adapted to assign ~~means for assigning~~ a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming ~~apparatuses~~ ~~apparatus~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming ~~apparatuses~~ ~~apparatus~~.

2. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of ~~said image forming apparatuses~~ ~~apparatus~~ is a printer, and said job managing unit ~~means~~ assigns a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers ~~a printer~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of printers ~~printer~~.

3. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of said image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a copier having a function for reading an image, and said job managing unit ~~means~~ assigns a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers ~~a copier~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of copiers ~~copier~~.

4. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein the said calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

5. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, further comprising a control unit adapted to output ~~means for outputting~~ print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus, calculate ~~calculating~~ calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter, and output ~~outputting~~ print data indicative of the calculated ~~said~~ calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein said memory unit ~~means~~ stores a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus to which said the job has been assigned so as to correspond to each other, and

wherein said job managing unit ~~means~~ changes the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the image forming apparatus whose calibration is being executed to an identifier of another image forming apparatus.

7. (Currently amended) An image forming system in which a plurality of image forming apparatuses and a controller which can transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of the image forming apparatus ~~to the image forming apparatus~~ are connected, wherein said controller comprises:

a memory unit adapted to store ~~means for storing unit~~ information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of ~~said image forming apparatuses~~ apparatus is being executed; and

a job managing unit adapted to assign ~~means for assigning~~ a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~.

8. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 7, wherein the said calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

9. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 7, wherein said controller further has a control unit adapted to output ~~means for outputting~~ print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus,

~~calculate~~ calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter, and
~~output~~ outputting print data indicative of the calculated ~~said~~ calibration data to the image
forming apparatus, and

wherein said image forming apparatus has a printing unit adapted to print
~~means for printing~~ on the basis of the print data for executing the calibration.

10. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 7, wherein said
memory unit ~~means~~ stores a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus
to which said the job has been assigned so as to correspond to each other, and said job
managing unit ~~means~~ changes the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the image
forming apparatus whose calibration is being executed to an identifier of another image
forming apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A method of controlling calibration of an image
forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing information showing that the calibration of one of a plurality of ~~said~~
image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is being executed; and

assigning a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming
apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of
image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein when
each of the plurality of ~~said~~ image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a printer, a job for

instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers ~~a printer~~ whose calibration is being executed is assigned to another of the plurality of printers ~~printer~~.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein when each of the plurality of said image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a copier having a function for reading an image, a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers ~~a copier~~ whose calibration is being executed are assigned to another of the plurality of copiers ~~copier~~.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the said calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising a control step of outputting print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus, calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter, and outputting print data indicative of the calculated ~~said~~ calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

storing a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus to which the said job has been assigned so as to correspond to each other, and

changing the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the image forming apparatus whose calibration is being executed to an identifier of another image forming apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium such that, when executed by a computer, the program causes the computer to execute a method for controlling calibration of an image forming apparatus, the method and ~~allowing a computer to execute said program~~ comprising:

a memory step of storing information showing that the calibration of one of a plurality of said image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is being executed; and

a job managing step of assigning a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~.

18. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of said image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a printer, and in said job managing step, a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers ~~a printer~~ whose calibration is being executed is assigned to another of the plurality of printers ~~printer~~.

19. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of said image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a copier having a function for reading an image, and in said job managing step, a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers ~~a copier~~ whose calibration is being executed are assigned to another of the plurality of copiers ~~copier~~.

20. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein the said calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

21. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises ~~said program allows the computer to execute:~~

an output step of outputting print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus;

a calculating step of calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter; and

a control step of outputting print data indicative of the calculated ~~said~~ calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

22. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein
in said storing step, a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming
apparatus to which said the job has been assigned are stored so as to correspond to each
other, and
in said job managing step, the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to
the image forming apparatus whose calibration is being executed is changed to an identifier
of another image forming apparatus.

23. (Currently amended) A memory medium which stores a program stored
on a computer-readable storage medium such that, when executed by a computer, the
program causes the computer to execute a program for controlling calibration of an image
forming apparatus, ~~and allowing a computer to execute said program~~; wherein said
program comprises:

a memory step of storing information showing that the calibration of one of
a plurality of ~~said~~ image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is being executed; and

a job managing step of assigning a job assigned to the one of the plurality of
image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ whose calibration is being executed to another of the
plurality of image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~.

24. (Currently amended) A medium according to claim 23, wherein each of
the plurality of ~~said~~ image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a printer, and in said job
managing step, a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of

~~printers~~ ~~a printer~~ whose calibration is being executed is assigned to another one of the plurality of printers ~~printer~~.

25. (Currently amended) A medium according to claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of ~~said~~ image forming apparatuses ~~apparatus~~ is a copier having a function for reading an image, and in said job managing step, a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers ~~a copier~~ whose calibration is being executed are assigned to another of the plurality of copiers ~~copier~~.

26. (Currently amended) A medium according to claim 23, wherein the ~~said~~ calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

27. (Currently amended) A medium according to claim 23, wherein the ~~method further comprises said program allows the computer to execute:~~

an output step of outputting print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus;

a calculating step of calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter; and

a control step of outputting print data indicative of the calculated ~~said~~ calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

28. (Currently amended) A medium according to claim 23, wherein

in said storing step, a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus to which the ~~said~~ job has been assigned are stored so as to correspond to each other, and

in said job managing step, the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the image forming apparatus whose calibration is being executed is changed to an identifier of another image forming apparatus.